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VOL. 2

Spirit MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER FOR
CSCPF MEMBERS & FRIENDS



MAY 2015



An Excerpt From Our Commitment:

"I believe the foundational goal of our community is to build respect for the inherent worth, dignity, and equality of every individual in our diverse society."

Welcome!

by John Jeffery

Welcome to ***SpiritMatters***, the newsletter of the Center for Spiritual Care and Pastoral Formation (CSCPF). This is the first newsletter issue produced by the newly formed Communications Team. As with everything in CSCPF, this newsletter belongs to all of us who are members of CSCPF. We encourage and invite you to participate by asking questions, offering articles and expressing your point of view. You can reach ***SpiritMatters*** by emailing: communications@cscpf.org

In the articles below you will see the achievements and successes of CSCPF as well as the challenges we face. CSCPF is a support and service organization. Our goal is to support our members by creating an inclusive Community that provides professional and personal support, education and pastoral formation. We support the agencies, institutions and clinical sites where we work through high quality education programs, reputable certification credentials and accredited learning centers. And most importantly, we serve the individuals and families to whom we are in ministry by insuring our clinicians are professionally educated and certified, competent, and authentic in their commitment to connect with people from a wide diversity of cultures, faith traditions or no tradition.

It takes a lot of effort to make an organization like CSCPF happen. Many people have dedicated many hours in the past 12 months to making CSCPF a reality. We are a Community

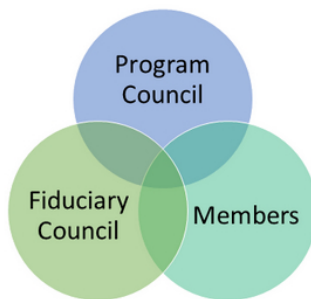
of volunteers. You are invited to join us by offering your gifts, insights and labors. Just call our telephone number **(925) 658-5740** and let one of the Team Leaders know of your interest to help out.

Governance Report

April 22, 2015
by John Jeffery

Last week members of CSCPF voted to accept the Governance Plan as submitted by the Ad Hoc Governance Team. To see the certified results of the voting, click [here](#).

Over the past five months the Ad Hoc Governance Team has worked with each other and with the membership to create a governance structure where the organizational authority rests at the grass roots level. All parts of CSCPF are inter-related, inter-dependent and accountable to each other. Governance is composed of three main components: Program Council, Fiduciary Council and Membership.



- The Program Council is composed of the Team Leaders of the Functional Teams (e.g. Certification, Standards, Community-life, Communication etc.)
- The Fiduciary Council is responsible for maintaining the legal, financial, risk management, and external relationships of CSCPF. The Fiduciary Council supports the work of the Program Council. The members of the Fiduciary Council are elected by vote of the membership.
- The Members of CSCPF coalesce into Communities such as Practitioner Communities, Learning Centers and Serving Sites. Every member of CSCPF is affiliated with a Practitioner Community and these communities are the heart and soul of our organization. Most of the governance, organizational decisions and identity of CSCPF reside within the Practitioner Communities.

The Governance Team is currently putting together a nominations list for membership on the Fiduciary Council. If you have someone you wish to recommend for the Council, please submit their name to the Governance Team: governance@cscpf.org

Please remember CSCPF is an open and transparent Community where any member can volunteer to serve on any of the Functional Teams. All you need to do is contact the team leader of the Functional Team that best fits your interest, expertise or desire.

- Community Announcement -

CSCPF Clinical Chaplain/Spiritual Care Practitioner Certification and Reciprocal Certification Processes Established

The [CSCPF Community Site](#) now has guidelines, process steps, and checklists for Clinical Chaplain/Spiritual Care Practitioner certification and reciprocal certification. The CSCPF Working Group has affirmed that these activities will be based in the Practitioner Communities, which will inform CSCPF electronically when certification decisions are made. These instructions can be distributed to members, candidates, and interested non-members so that all can proceed without further delay to become "CSCPF Certified."

Certification is been a complex task in our Community's formation. The Certification Team and Working Group have developed a process that honors and trusts the wisdom of Practitioner Communities, provides the level of transparency and accountability required to uphold our CSCPF community values, and ensures a level of integrity and competence that is required by our profession and the public we serve. Click [here](#) to access this important information on the CSCPF Community website.

Many thanks are due to Geof Tio and the Certification Team who have worked hard to balance multiple individual, organizational and professional needs.

Please call [\(925\) 658-5740](tel:925-658-5740), opt 1, if you have any questions.

- CSCPF Spring Gathering – A Brief Summary -

Spring Gathering 2015

by JJ Pooley

The Sunrise Ranch in beautiful Loveland, Colorado was the location of the CSCPF Spring Gathering for Training and Consultation, held April 11-14, 2015. Approximately 20 CSCPF members attended, and by the end of the meeting much had been accomplished.

Reports and/or Updates were given on the following topics/teams:

- Financial Status & Transparency
- Membership Statistics
- ASPA Application
- COMISS Membership
- CSCPF Fall Gathering (Nov 2014) Minutes
- Governance
- Certification
- Standards
- Accreditation
- Communications
- Ethics
- Communities
- Consultation Team
- Events Team
- Program Council

After the updates, the participants broke into small groups to work on Standards, Certification, Communications, and Ethics. Then each small



The final day of the Gathering, proposals were considered, discussed, edited, and then voted on. While it was agreed that some word smithing would still be necessary, this group of dedicated volunteers created documents, standards, and certification protocols that will significantly accelerate the CSCPF's ability to process certifications. These included edits to the Standards (including Categories of Certification, 'Associate' category, Admission to an SEF (Supervisory Education Fellow) Program, and Competencies of Supervisors) and the creation of *11 Steps Towards a Successful Certification Review*.

Greg Colley did a tutorial on navigating the website and the member site, and options for user-friendly tools were discussed.

As a Practitioner Community Representative, I was very pleased with the information I gained at this meeting that I can share with my Community members, and I was especially happy to have two other members of my Denver-based Community there to learn about, and participate in, this evolving organization.

group reported back to the whole what had been discussed and/or drafted.

It was also very heartwarming to make good friends with other CSCPF members from around the U.S. Each brought his/her own unique gift to this Gathering and we truly celebrated our diversity, our oneness, and most of all our optimism for CSCPF!

- ASPA & COMISS - why membership is important to CSCPF

COMISS & CSCPF

by Paula Belleggie

In January of 2015, CSCPF was granted membership to COMISS - ***The Network on Ministry in Specialized Settings***. Many of our members have asked since then, what is the significance of our membership?

In CSCPF, we value the power of communities working together toward a common goal. Many of our members at large and those on our Program Council feel that joining COMISS aligns us with a respected network of individuals and organizations who share this value. Other COMISS member organizations include ACPE, AAPC and the APC.

Why else is membership in COMISS important for CSCPF?

We share a common vision:

The Mission of the COMISS Network is: *We are a pre-eminent network of organizations committed to the preparation and practice of multi-faith spiritual care through chaplaincy and pastoral counseling in specialized settings and promotes and supports collaboration among its members.*

And from our own Philosophy: *"We seek a genuine community which fosters common ground among multiple faith groups, inter-faith and SPNR communities, including non-theistic perspectives both western and eastern. We are developing a culture of sound training for professional certification in spiritual care for those on conventional spiritual paths as well as those on paths and in settings that reflect new arising's and expressions of perennial wisdom."*

How did CSCPF become a member of COMISS?

Before one can become a member of COMISS, a candidating organization must apply and fulfill standards of CCAPS (*The COMISS Commission on Accreditation of Pastoral Services*): *"A certifying organization will be able to demonstrate a process for certification of individuals which includes standards/categories in **compliance** with CCAPS.*

They will also demonstrate how certified chaplains, pastoral counselors, or other pastoral care professionals conform to a code of ethics that prohibits proselytizing, conflicts of interest, and crossing of

ASPA & CSCPF

By Roy Sanders

What is ASPA? ASPA is ***The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors*** that assesses the quality of specialized and professional higher education programs and schools.

As an organization representing over 60 specialized disciplines or defined professions (<http://www.aspa-usa.org/members-list>), ASPA membership ensures that students in educational programs receive an education consistent with standards for entry to practice or advanced practice in each of their respective fields or disciplines. ASPA is the only unified, national voice that supports the importance of specialized and professional accreditation.

To be a member of ASPA, CSCPF must meet and satisfactorily complete ASPA's membership process which includes, but is not limited to, being a specialized and/or professional organization with a national scope that prepares individuals for entry into practice in a specialized discipline or defined profession, and/or educates individuals in a concentrated area of study; and requires that its practitioners acquire a body of specialized knowledge and become proficient in basic skills and competencies, for which the practitioner is then accorded certain societal benefits, including title and autonomy in carrying out the work.

What is the status of our application?

CSCPF is being reviewed for membership and is not accepted at this moment, April 16th. Our application for full membership hit a speed bump. We need two things to keep our application open:

1. CSCPF needs ONE Learning Center to be accredited through our own full accreditation process.
 - Reciprocity does not demonstrate our due process and diligence.
 - We do have several learning centers in queue to accredit solely through our process.
2. CSCPF needs one or more Learning Centers to demonstrate a relationship with an institution of higher education granting college or above credit for clinical pastoral education.
 - Many of our Learning Centers have a soft

*professional boundaries. Or, the organization in this category accredits institutions, facilities, centers, or systems for the practice, education, and training of chaplains, pastoral counselors, and/or other pastoral care professionals. An accrediting organization will be able to demonstrate a process for accreditation which includes standards/categories in **compliance** with CCAPS.”*

CCAPS has high standards and holds its member organizations responsible to uphold the same rigor. For more information on COMISS and CCAPS Standards click here:
<http://comissnetwork.org/comisscommissionccaps.html>



agreement or a formal one with a seminary or college through other accreditors for the learner/CPE student to receive credit for CPE.

- CSCPF needs one or more Learning Centers, with a formal agreement with CSCPF, to actually operate as part of a degreed program in a college.
- CSCPF currently has Learning Centers that are working on a formal agreement with CSCPF as the accreditor.

Once these two things are complete, our application will fit and CSCPF will be accepted as a Full Member. If we take a long time to accomplish these, our application will close and we will have to re-apply.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or formal agreements to pass along write to Roy Sanders at accreditation@cscpf.org

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